

5/2000

Price Field Office  
125 south 600 West  
Price, Utah 84501

3482  
SL-031286  
(UT-070)

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Mr. John Borla  
Manager Technical Services  
Plateau Mining Corporation  
Willow Creek Mine  
847 NW Hwy 191  
Helper, Utah 84526

*Copy to: PAM  
ACT/007/006  
Incoming  
(2 sided)*

Re: Sealing 2<sup>nd</sup> North Mains of the Middle Seam, Star Point Mine

Dear Mr. Borla;

On May 17, 2000, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a written notification from Plateau Mining Corporation on their intent to seal the 2<sup>nd</sup> North Mains in the Middle Seam located in Federal coal lease SL-031286. The notification indicated that two National Mine Service shuttle cars would be abandoned in the sealed area due to too hazardous conditions. The letter states that the 2<sup>nd</sup> North Mains needed to be sealed as quickly as possible because wrap around bleeder systems cannot be adequately examined due to deteriorating roof conditions.

On May 18, 2000 Jay Marshall and Jerry Price inspected the area to be sealed. The only access into the area was from the upper Seam down a slope into the Middle seam. The entire middle seam area inspected showed signs of weight. The heavy roof was caused from coal having been removed from both sides of the 2<sup>nd</sup> North Mains. Roof bolt heads were being pulled through the plates, cap pieces were being crushed, roof mats were being stretched, and roof cutters were running up the sides of some entries, all of which are sure signs of deteriorating conditions and eventual collapse. The oxygen content in one area was low enough to set off a hand held spotter alarm. The low oxygen alarm demonstrates the difficulty in maintaining adequate ventilation.

Shuttle car #4920 is located in crosscut #4 of Unit 1 which is inaccessible due to roof falls. During the inspection the shuttle car could not be observed due to approximately 300' of caved top between the car and the closest access point. Access to the car at this time is impossible. The shuttle car likely still contains all operational fluids. The total of all fluids remaining in shuttle car #4920 would not exceed 25 gallons.

Shuttle car #4919 is located in crosscut #4 of the mains. This shuttle car was observed to be located within a dangered off area. The area was dangered off and marked per MSHA requirements. Access to this car is possible but not logical due to the significant safety concerns. The shuttle car likely still contains all operational fluids. The total of all fluids remaining shuttle car #4919 would not

exceed 25 gallons.

The BLM has analyzed the situation and reviewed all supporting documentation and determined that removal of fluids from the two shuttle cars is not logical and does not warrant exposure to the safety hazards associated with the removal.

Since Lease SL-031286 has been determined to be mined out it will have no effect on maximum economic recovery (MER) of the Federal coal.

The BLM concurs with the sealing of 2<sup>nd</sup> North of the Middle Seam. However, Plateau Mining Corporation due to the two shuttle cars that will remain in the working due to safety concerns, will remain liable for any potential adverse hydrological conditions that could result.

For further information, contact Mr. Jay Marshall at (801) 636-3614.

Sincerely,

Area Manager